

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. 323

Supporting peace and democracy in the Republic of Sierra Leone.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2000

Mr. HALL of Ohio (for himself, Mr. WOLF, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. HOUGHTON, and Ms. MCKINNEY) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on International Relations

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting peace and democracy in the Republic of Sierra Leone.

Whereas the United States has supported the people of the Republic of Sierra Leone in their desire for peace and democracy through both moral and financial support and initiatives designed to secure peace;

Whereas despite a peace agreement signed by all parties on July 7, 1999, to end Sierra Leone's civil war, and despite the efforts of the United Nations peacekeeping force in Sierra Leone, violence continues;

Whereas rebels in Sierra Leone have murdered United Nations peacekeeping troops, taken hundreds of others hostage, and repeatedly robbed the peacekeeping force of its weapons and equipment;

Whereas, in violation of the peace agreement, the majority of Sierra Leone's rebels have refused to disarm and continue to commit atrocities against both civilians and United Nations peacekeeping troops;

Whereas rebels continue to threaten Sierra Leone's people and its capital, and recently threatened a rampage like the rampage that killed thousands and destroyed much of the city in 1999;

Whereas rebels have pursued a campaign of rape against Sierra Leone's women and girls, leaving them traumatized both emotionally and physically, with high rates of HIV and other infections, and malnutrition;

Whereas, while the peace agreement granted amnesty to all parties to the civil war in Sierra Leone for crimes committed before July 7, 1999, it does not bar prosecution of any party for war crimes committed after that date;

Whereas the natural resources of Sierra Leone that have been used to transform rebel forces into a well-equipped army continue to be deployed to hinder efforts by United Nations peacekeeping troops to enforce the peace agreement;

Whereas the United Nations has an obligation to protect troops serving in its peacekeeping forces and must not tolerate the execution of troops serving in its peacekeeping forces;

Whereas the United States has a responsibility to exercise leadership at the United Nations and to contribute all it can to the success of its initiatives;

Whereas the Congress has an obligation to expend taxpayers' funds wisely and in the past decade has done so in providing \$2,000,000,000 in humanitarian assistance to Si-

erra Leone and 3 other countries engulfed in wars over their natural resources;

Whereas, during the same period, rebel forces in Sierra Leone and these other countries have earned more than \$10,000,000,000 smuggling diamonds and have used their profits to wage wars that have killed tens of thousands of civilians, driven hundreds of thousands from their homes and countries, and increased the need for humanitarian and other assistance; and

Whereas the people of Sierra Leone have continually demonstrated their desire for peace and democracy: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That—*

3 (1) the Congress joins the international commu-
4 nity in supporting peace and democracy in the Re-
5 public of Sierra Leone; and

6 (2) it is the sense of the Congress that—

7 (A)(i) the President should direct the
8 United States representative to the United Na-
9 tions to immediately work to bring before the
10 United Nations Security Council a resolution
11 imposing comprehensive sanctions against the
12 sale of diamonds by rebels in Sierra Leone; and

13 (ii) sanctions referred to in clause (i)
14 should be imposed on any diamond mined in Si-
15 erra Leone that is not certified by the Govern-
16 ment of Sierra Leone and such sanctions should

1 be similar to those sanctions imposed against
2 rebels in Angola with consideration of the rec-
3 ommendations of the United Nations Fowler re-
4 port;

5 (B) rebels in Sierra Leone should be con-
6 demned by the United Nations and the inter-
7 national community for murdering Kenyan
8 troops serving as United Nations peacekeepers,
9 and for inflicting unspeakable suffering on
10 countless Sierra Leonean civilians;

11 (C) United States diplomats should be im-
12 mediately dispatched to Sierra Leone to remind
13 the leaders of the rebels that the peace agree-
14 ment provides no amnesty for any war crimes
15 committed since its signing;

16 (D) because international law does not pro-
17 vide amnesty for war criminals, the United
18 States should initiate all actions necessary to
19 bring any individual who has committed war
20 crimes during Sierra Leone's civil war to jus-
21 tice; and

22 (E) United States authorities should not
23 grant a visa to any individual who committed
24 war crimes during Sierra Leone's civil war, or
25 to members of the individual's family, and any

1 such individual found in the United States
2 should be turned over to the International War
3 Crimes Tribunal for prosecution.

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